

## Chief Justice Johnson honored with namesake Trailblazer Award

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) honored Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson with the establishment of an annual award in her name. The announcement was made March 4 during the LSBA's ninth annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession in Baton Rouge.

The "Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson Trailblazer Award" will recognize individual attorneys and judges who champion ideals exemplified by Chief Justice Johnson, the first African-American chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, who has always exhibited an unwavering commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

The award will be presented annually at the LSBA's Annual Meeting to a recipient who demonstrates a unique blend of experience, skills and accomplishments which translate into successful diversity and inclusion efforts. 📌



The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) honored Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson, center, with the establishment of an annual award in her name. On hand for the March 4 announcement at the LSBA's ninth annual Conclave on Diversity in the Legal Profession in Baton Rouge were, at left, attorney Roderick A. (Rick) Palmore, with Dentons US LLP and the conclave's keynote speaker; and LSBA President Mark A. Cunningham.

## LSBA/Baton Rouge Bar conduct first interactive CLE seminar with BlueJeans technology

The Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Committee on Diversity in the Legal Profession and Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities (LSPD) Committee co-hosted a CLE seminar on Jan. 21 at the LSBA's offices that was made available to Bar members via BlueJeans technology at the Baton Rouge Bar Association.

The session, "Fit to Practice," covered best practices for attorneys to prepare for, and respond to, potentially unforeseen disabilities. The speakers — Julie Brown White, a partner with Schiff, Scheckman & White, L.L.P.; J.E. (Buddy) Stockwell III,

executive director of the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program; Bryan Jenkins, group benefits consultant for Gilsbar; and LSBA Ethics Counsel Richard P. Lemmler, Jr. — discussed ethical duties to clients, potential liability issues, insurance and long-term planning options, and other relevant topics.

The session was broadcast live via BlueJeans, a videoconference system installed at the Louisiana Bar Center and in the offices of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, the Lafayette Bar Association and the Shreveport Bar Association. Members are encouraged to contact their local bars

to encourage the use of the conferencing technology to participate remotely in CLE seminars held at the Louisiana Bar Center (when made available) and LSBA committee meetings. It is not necessary for LSBA members to go to the participating bar associations to remotely join a committee meeting. LSBA members also can access the BlueJeans network via their personal devices as long as they have a webcam.

"Fit to Practice" is part of the LSBA Disabilities Three-Part Speaker Series, which aims to provide Bar members with information about disability-related legal issues. 📌

## Final session of 3-part disability series set for May 6

The third and final session of the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) disability-related CLE series will be hosted in conjunction with the Alexandria Bench Bar Conference hosted by the Alexandria Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section. This session, "Social Security Appeals," is scheduled from 3-5 p.m. Friday, May 6.

Speakers Julia L. Deal (Law Offices of Julia Deal, L.L.C.), attorney Daniel W. Nodurft and attorney Matthew D. Lane will address the process and procedures for submitting Social Security appeals. This session is especially relevant to young attorneys and solo/small firm practitioners seeking to expand their client base, as it will provide them the skills to handle Social Security disability appeals and cases.

For more information, email Lauren S. Laborde at [llaborde@fairclothlaw.com](mailto:llaborde@fairclothlaw.com). 

## LADB training session conducted in January

Lynn Luker (Stanley, Reuter, Ross, Thornton & Alford, L.L.C.) and Troy N. Bell (Troy N. Bell, L.L.C.), co-chairs of the Louisiana State Bar Association's (LSBA) Diversity Committee, presented a program at the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board's annual training for their volunteer hearing committee members. Their presentation, "Minimizing the Impact of Unconscious Bias in Decision Making," was held on Jan. 22.

More than 100 volunteers from a myriad of backgrounds and from all across the state attended the training. Volunteers received instruction that would prove useful as they embark on a new year of disciplinary board service. 



Presenters for the Louisiana State Bar Association Diversity Committee's LGBT Subcommittee's Jan. 14 CLE were, from left, Scott J. Spivey, Professor Todd Brower, Professor Paul R. Baier and Ryan P. Delaney.

## LGBT CLE seminar presented Jan. 14 at Midyear Meeting

The Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) Diversity Committee's LGBT Subcommittee presented a free, two-hour CLE seminar on Jan. 14 at the LSBA's 2016 Midyear Meeting in New Orleans. The seminar, "The Impact of *Obergefell v. Hodges*: What Does the Future Hold?," addressed issues developing as a result of the landmark Supreme Court decision al-

lowing gay couples to marry. Presenters — Professor Paul R. Baier, Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center; Professor Todd Brower, Western State University College of Law; Ryan P. Delaney, Delaney & Robb; and Scott J. Spivey, A.P.L.C. — discussed topics including adoption, divorce, step-parent adoption and estate planning. 

## 15 attorneys attend Diversity Integration Facilitator Training Retreat

Fifteen attorneys from around the state attended a Diversity and Inclusion Facilitator Retreat on Jan. 16 at the Louisiana Bar Center in New Orleans. Co-Chairs I.J. Clark-Sam and Monique Edwards, both seasoned diversity facilitators, discussed the "do's" and "don'ts" of making diversity and inclusion presentations and how to engage other attorneys as professionalism facilitators. 



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